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GOOD AS GOLDEN

ORPHAN BLACK'S TATIANA MASLANY SCORES A MAJOR AWARDS NOMINATION, AND REGINA'S ARTS COMMUNITY COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD PAGE 3

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For Sask. siblings, all roads lead to Dief

Who's your daddy?

Goertzen brothers the latest to claim lineage to ex-PM John Diefenbaker, with revelation he may have sired two boys

Twice-married former Canadian prime minister John Diefenbaker of Saskatchewan — always believed to have been childless — may have fathered two sons, leaving progeny scattered across the country, The Canadian Press has learned.

It's a labyrinthine tale of adoptions and broken and reconstituted families, whose quest to uncover their roots turned up "Dief" as a common thread.

About 10 years ago, in Western Canada, the three Goertzen siblings began searching for their biological father, Ed Thorne, who had split from their mom four decades earlier.

Stan Goertzen, 52, a retired member of the Saskatoon Police Service, found Thorne in Kamloops, B.C. He made a startling discovery.

"He says, 'Oh, and my biological family has found me, too,'" Goertzen said of Thorne, who died soon after.

"That's the first time I found out he was adopted."

Separately and coincidentally, Ruthann Malmgren, 70, of Rockyford, Alta., had also been looking for Thorne on behalf of her mother, Mary Rosa LaMarche, who had given him up for adoption.

LaMarche had been Diefenbaker's housekeeper in Prince Albert in the late 1930s.

At the time, Diefenbaker was having marital difficulties, according to Simma Holt's biography of his first wife, Edna Diefenbaker. His eye apparently rested on his housekeeper, whom Malmgren described as "free and easy."

In 1938, LaMarche fell pregnant and John was born in February 1939. His birth certificate did not list a father.

The baby, John Eric LaMarche, was adopted and renamed Edward Thorne.

Malmgren tracked Thorne down to Kamloops and, through him, connected with Stan Goertzen around 2003. She told him his biological father, Thorne, was Diefenbaker's son.

"I laughed my tail off," Goertzen said. "I thought, 'You've got to be kidding me.'"

Stan Goertzen, centre, is seen with his brothers Lawrence, left, and Darrell in this undated family handout. The Saskatchewan siblings believe they are grandsons of former prime minister John Diefenbaker. Their DNA matches that of George Dryden in Toronto, who believes he is Diefenbaker's son. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Enter George Dryden, 45, who grew up in a Toronto family only to discover a few years ago that the man who raised him — prominent federal Liberal Gordon Dryden — was not his father.

That revelation prompted Dryden to go on a well-publicized quest to confirm long-time family whispers: that he is the product of an affair between his mother, Mary Lou Dryden, and Diefenbaker, a known confidante.

Dryden, who bears a strong resemblance to the former Conservative prime minister, believes previous genetic matching with a Diefenbaker relative proves the family connection.

Back in Saskatchewan, Lawrence Goertzen, Stan's brother, saw a chance to check on the link to Diefenbaker, who led the country from 1957 to 1963 and died in 1979.

Stan and Lawrence Goertzen, 48, who does aircraft repairs at Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker Airport, sent body samples to a DNA lab. So did Dryden.

The result this month stunned them all.

"We're talking about 99.99 per cent probability that they are related," said Kyle Tsui at Toronto-based Accu-Metrics, which did the tests.

Dryden called the test a "very nice surprise, an early Christmas present."

"I got a feeling there might be Diefenbabies running around all over the place," Dryden said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Regina's sci-fi star earns Golden Globe nomination

Tatiana Maslany.
Locals say her talent was obvious long before big role on Orphan Black

SARAH TAGUIAM
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Reginans are over the moon after local star Tatiana Maslany was nominated for a Golden Globe as best actress in a television drama series.

Regina-born Maslany's portrayal of multiple clones with different personalities in the Canadian-produced science-fiction program Orphan Black has been lauded by critics and friends alike.

"She was one of the most talented students I've ever had the pleasure of teaching," said Dan MacDonald, who taught Maslany drama and creative writing at Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School.

"She had a strong sense of irony, a high maturity level and a really interesting view on things."

Maslany was big into acting while attending LeBoldus. She became a top contender in the Canadian Improv Games and went on to the local General Fools Improvisational Theatre.

General Fools director Jayden Pfeifer fondly recalls hundreds of hours practicing onstage with Maslany.

"Tatiana's an amazing actress and an all-around incredible human being," Pfeifer said.

Maslany is vying for the award against Taylor Schilling of Orange is the New Black, Kerry Washington of Scandal, Julianna Margulies of The Good Wife and Robin Wright of House of Cards.

Talented people like Maslany, MacDonald said, could succeed anywhere. He added, though, that growing up in Regina's arts community helped hone her talents.

"Regina has always had a really strong background in theatre and drama that not many people know about," MacDonald said.

"If the kids want to, they could go places — and that's certainly what Tatiana did."

Actress Tatiana Maslany speaks onstage at Entertainment Weekly's "Women Who Kick Ass" session as part of Comic-Con International at the San Diego Convention Center in July. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Lengthy tests needed after deaths of twin babies

It could take months for the provincial coroner's office to determine what caused the deaths of twin baby boys at a First Nation in west-central Saskatchewan.

After conducting autopsies on Wednesday in Saskatoon, the coroner's office announced on Thursday that it will hold off on declaring the official causes of death until receiving the results of a toxicology test, a microscopic examination, microbiology cultures and a neuropathology examination — which could take as long as three months.

"The death of the two infants is abnormal, and our policy dictates we treat all deaths as suspicious," Sgt. Craig Cleary, spokesman for Saskatchewan RCMP, told Metro on Thursday.

Suspicion

Despite the involvement of an RCMP major-crimes unit, police say the investigation has not immediately been considered a crime.

Cleary added that this kind of wait is common.

"I would estimate that anywhere between one and three months is pretty typical," he said.

On Monday, the two seven-month-old brothers were taken by ambulance to a health centre in Loon Lake from nearby Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, after a family member called 911.

RCMP visited the First Nation, about a 90-minute drive northwest of North Battleford, on Tuesday to speak to residents and gather information. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

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Government, opposition clash over pediatric care changes

New plans afloat. Phased-in changes are to begin next June following renovations at Regina General

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
marco.vigliotti@metronews.ca

Newly unveiled plans to centralize hospital pediatric care in Regina and shift intensive care for children in the province to Saskatoon, has the government and opposition at odds.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan said Thursday that the recommendation from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) to move pediatric care out of Pasqua Hospital to a central unit at Regina General Hospital will improve safety and "better meet the health needs of children in southern Saskatchewan."

He explained that concentrating the intensive care in Saskatoon will merely formalize an existing policy. He noted that the province already sends critically ill children to Saskatoon and to Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.

Both proposals were unveiled Wednesday at a special public RQHR board meeting.

Duncan also took aim at a press release from the opposition New Democrats accusing the government of "dismissing the needs of patients" by making the changes.

The minister said he is "profoundly shocked and disappointed" that the opposition would "disregard" the views of experts in the field, who he argued played a large role in a consultation process before the decision was made.

NDP health critic Danielle Chartier, however, claimed it's the government that is ignoring stakeholders by failing to reach out to families that would be impacted by the move.

"When you want to do these big changes … you need to ensure you have many different stakeholders at the table," Chartier added.

The phased-in changes are to begin next June following renovations at Regina General to establish a unit for high-acuity care.

NDP voice

"When you want to do these big changes … you need to ensure you have many different stakeholders at the table."

NDP health critic Danielle Chartier. She says the government is ignoring stakeholders by failing to reach out to families that would be impacted by the move.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan fields questions from reporters on Thursday at the legislature after the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region unveiled plans a day earlier to centralize hospital pediatric care in Regina and shift intensive care for children in the province to Saskatoon. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Blast from the past

Victorian style Christmas party on the menu

Those in the Regina area seeking a taste of an old-style festive season have a reason to visit Government House on Saturday.

Government House will host an evening of festivities at its fourth annual Old-Fashioned Victorian Christmas from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The free event will feature Victorian-style activities including caroling, cookie decorating and horse-drawn wagon rides through the Edwardian Gardens at the site on Dewdney Avenue. Visitors will also be able to visit the Amédée Forget Museum at the historic complex during the celebration. METRO

Sucker River

Police charge man in homicide

A 27-year-old man is charged with murder in connection with the death of a woman near Sucker River in northern Saskatchewan in November.

On Nov. 27, the remains of 24-year-old Jodi Clarissa Roberts were discovered several kilometres from Sucker River. She had been reported missing on Nov. 6.

An autopsy found that Roberts didn't die from natural causes, RCMP said.

Ricky Jonathan Ross of Sucker River was arrested on Wednesday and charged with first-degree murder and offering an indignity to a body. Ross appeared in provincial court on Thursday morning in La Ronge. METRO

Prince Albert

Emergency training launched in high schools

Two Prince Albert high schools, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan government, will offer an emergency response training program to students starting in January.

Students at St. Mary High School and Wesmor Community High School will be able to take part in the three-year program to learn techniques in firefighting, search and rescue, emergency vehicle operation and First Aid/CPR.

According to Prince Albert Northcote MLA Victoria Jurgens, the program gives students who want to work in public-safety sectors a unique chance to gain hands-on experience. METRO

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Investments

CPP buying farmland assets in Saskatchewan

The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board says it has acquired the assets of Assiniboia Farmland LP, a fund manager that owns a portfolio of agricultural lands, for up to $128 million.

The deal includes 115,000 acres of Saskatchewan farmland producing wheat, barley and canola.

Pending adjustments, it is expected to close in January 2014, with the current management team continuing to oversee the portfolio.

CPPIB says farmland is an "attractive asset class" for the board because it delivers historically "stable, risk-adjusted returns" as demand for agricultural products continue to grow.

The CPPIB, one of the world's largest pension funds, invests money not needed by the Canada Pension Plan to pay benefits for some 18 million current and retired contributors.

CPPIB had net assets of $192.8 billion as of Sept. 30, up from $188.9 billion at the end of the previous quarter.

"Farmland investments align well with CPPIB's long-term investment strategy while also further diversifying our portfolio," said Andre Bourbonnais, senior vice-president of private investments.

On Wednesday, the board announced it had purchased a 15 per cent stake in ORPEA S.A., a long-term care provider in Europe, for approximately $468.2 million.

The deal amounts to it buying nearly eight million shares of ORPEA at a price of 40.34 euros per share, or a total of 320.8 million euros, said the CPPIB.

It also plans to underwrite a primary share capital increase of up to 100 million euros to help the company grow its business.

Paris-based ORPEA was founded in 1989 and provides nursing, post-acute care, rehabilitation and psychiatric services in France, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Switzerland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Better enforcement of law against teen smoking urged

Letter. Province rejected federal approach in favour of complaints-based reporting system

Health groups and retailers want the Saskatchewan government to do more to enforce a law that prohibits stores from selling tobacco to teens.

The Canadian Cancer Society, the Lung Association of Saskatchewan and the Heart and Stroke Foundation sent a letter Thursday to Health Minister Dustin Duncan.

In the letter, the groups call on the province to spend money on a program that would use test shoppers to catch retailers who sell tobacco to minors.

"We urged the minister to reinstate the test-shopper program," said Donna Pasiechnik, spokeswoman for the Canadian Cancer Society.

"This practice increases retailer motivation to seek compliance at all times given the risk of being tested at any time and being charged and fined."

The federal government used a similar program before it turned over responsibility for tobacco enforcement to the provinces last year, but Saskatchewan scrapped it in favour of a complaints-based approach.

Only six complaints have been filed in the province since last fall.

Duncan acknowledged the complaints-based system isn't getting good results, but he also noted that using test shoppers is expensive.

"While we may not be going far enough in terms of the complaint system, we are looking at whether there is a middle ground between what the federal government did and what we are now doing."

The Canadian Cancer Society said the province has had the highest teen smoking rate in Canada for the last 10 years. It is estimated that 20 per cent of Saskatchewan teens from the ages of 15 to 19 smoke — almost double the national average.

The Western Convenience Stores Association said Thursday it isn't satisfied either with how the province is enforcing the tobacco law and supports the call for more action.

"Retailers should be reminded of their responsibility to ensure vigilance in their age verification program," association president Andrew Klukas said in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

Donna Pasiechnik said the government spends about $500,000 on tobacco control each year, while at the same time collecting an estimated $245 million in tobacco taxes.

Saskatchewan has had the highest teen smoking rate in Canada for the past 10 years, according to the Canadian Cancer Society. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Children run along a towpath between houses earlier this year in Qunu, South Africa. Nelson Mandela's funeral will be held in Qunu. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Village braces for Mandela funeral

Massive event. Final goodbye comes with major challenges for tiny Qunu

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The population of Qunu is just under 300, but a mass invasion is underway ahead of Nelson Mandela's funeral Sunday, when the Eastern Cape village where Madiba grew up hosts one of the largest events in South African history.

"There is a lot of people and a lot of disruption," said a spokesperson at the Nelson Mandela Museum, the largest building in Qunu, which has become the site of a marquee for the world's media.

Much larger temporary structures are being hastily constructed to host the ceremony and its 5,000 guests, with officials admitting work is behind schedule. Eleven venues in the local area will screen the funeral for those unable to attend, with up to 70,000 expected, and accommodation prices rising sharply across the region.

Roads leading to the village will be blocked, and the local airport in Mthatha will become a no-fly zone, reserved for around 100 private jets transporting dignitaries. "The military will be in control," announced municipality mayor Nomakhosazana Meth. "Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Many world leaders and celebrities are expected to attend, including Charles, Prince of Wales, and Oprah Winfrey. More than 1,500 members of the media have been accredited. But residents of the village have claimed they are being prevented from attending the funeral because of the visitors.

On Saturday, a military aircraft will take Mandela's remains from Pretoria 900 kilometres away to the Eastern Cape. The funeral begins at 9 a.m. local time on Sunday. The ex-president will receive a Christian burial, but also the Xhosa rituals of his community with an address to his spirit.

Quoted

"Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Nomakhosazana Meth, municipality mayor

Central African Republic. Peacekeepers tackle sectarian violence

African peacekeepers fired into the air Thursday in Central African Republic's chaotic capital, trying to disperse a mob bent on hunting down and killing Muslims taking refuge in a church compound.

The unrest in Bangui underscored the uncertainty that remains in the capital of the Central African Republic, despite the arrival of 1,600 French soldiers and patrols by regional African peacekeepers. The two forces are seeking to stabilize this impoverished, now lawless, country after more than 500 people were killed last week in sectarian bloodshed.

In March, an alliance of mostly Muslim rebels from the north tossed out the country's Christian president in a coup that brought President Michel Djotodia to power. Rage has mounted recently against the men who took part in that coup, known as Seleka, who have also been accused of carrying out scores of attacks on civilians since then.

On Thursday, several thousand people stood by as a group of young men lobbing huge rocks tried to break into the compound of the Saint-Jacques Church in Bangui, looking for an ex-rebel general they believed to be inside.

After firing their guns, the regional peacekeepers hustled several men from the church compound during the melee that ensued, although the men wore civilian clothing and appeared to be Muslim clerics rather than ex-rebels. The mob hurled rocks at the peacekeepers and their vehicles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Middle East. Syrian refugee camp hit hard by winter storm

Syrians at a sprawling refugee camp in northern Jordan scrambled to batten down their tents against torrential rains and high winds as a blustery winter storm battered parts of the Middle East for a second day Thursday.

The storm, dubbed Alexa, already has pounded much of Lebanon and parts of northern Syria, pushing temperatures below zero and dumping snow and heavy rains. In some parts of Israel and the West Bank, meanwhile, government offices and schools shuttered to wait out the winter weather.

Syrian refugees across the region, however, were among the hardest hit by the storm, which heaped another layer of misery on the already grim existence of many of the more than two million Syrians who have fled the civil war raging in their homeland.

At Jordan's sprawling Zaatari refugee camp, which is home to 120,000 refugees, wind toppled at least 10 tents overnight, leaving residents vulnerable to freezing temperatures.

Zaatari spokesman Wadah Hmoud said two days of heavy rains have flooded several areas of the camp. He said aid workers were struggling to replace tents with prefabricated housing units for the camp's 120,000 inhabitants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interpreter says he hallucinated

The man accused of faking sign interpretation while standing alongside world leaders like U.S. President Barack Obama at Nelson Mandela's memorial service said Thursday he hallucinated that angels were entering the stadium, has schizophrenia and has been violent in the past.

Thamsanqa Jantjie said in a 45-minute interview with The Associated Press that his hallucinations began while he was interpreting and that he tried not to panic because there were "armed policemen around me." He added that he was once hospitalized in a mental health facility for more than one year and a half.

The statements by Jantjie also raise serious security issues for Obama, other heads of state and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who stood next to Jantjie as they made speeches at FNB Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg's famed black township. The ceremony honoured Mandela, the anti-apartheid icon and former president who died on Dec. 5.

A South African deputy Cabinet minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, later held a news conference to announce that "a mistake happened" in the hiring of Jantjie.

A medical expert with University College London cautioned that Jantjie's unusual sign language didn't look like it was caused by schizophrenia or another psychosis.

"The disruption of sign language in people with schizophrenia takes many forms but this does not look like anything I have seen in signers with psychosis," said Jo Atkinson, who is a clinical psychologist and researcher at the Center for Deafness, Cognition and Language. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France

Caretaker charged in poison deaths

A caretaker at a French retirement home was charged in the poisoning deaths of six patients, accused Thursday of slipping the elderly residents a psychotropic cocktail over the course of two months.

Three other victims were sickened but survived, said Dietlind Baudoin, assistant prosecutor of Chambery in France's east. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madagascar

Plague outbreak suspected

Local authorities in Madagascar say 20 people have died since last week because of what they suspect to be an outbreak of bubonic plague.

Police in the northwestern district of Mandritsara said Wednesday the deceased could not be treated in time. They say more than 20 others suspected of being infected are being treated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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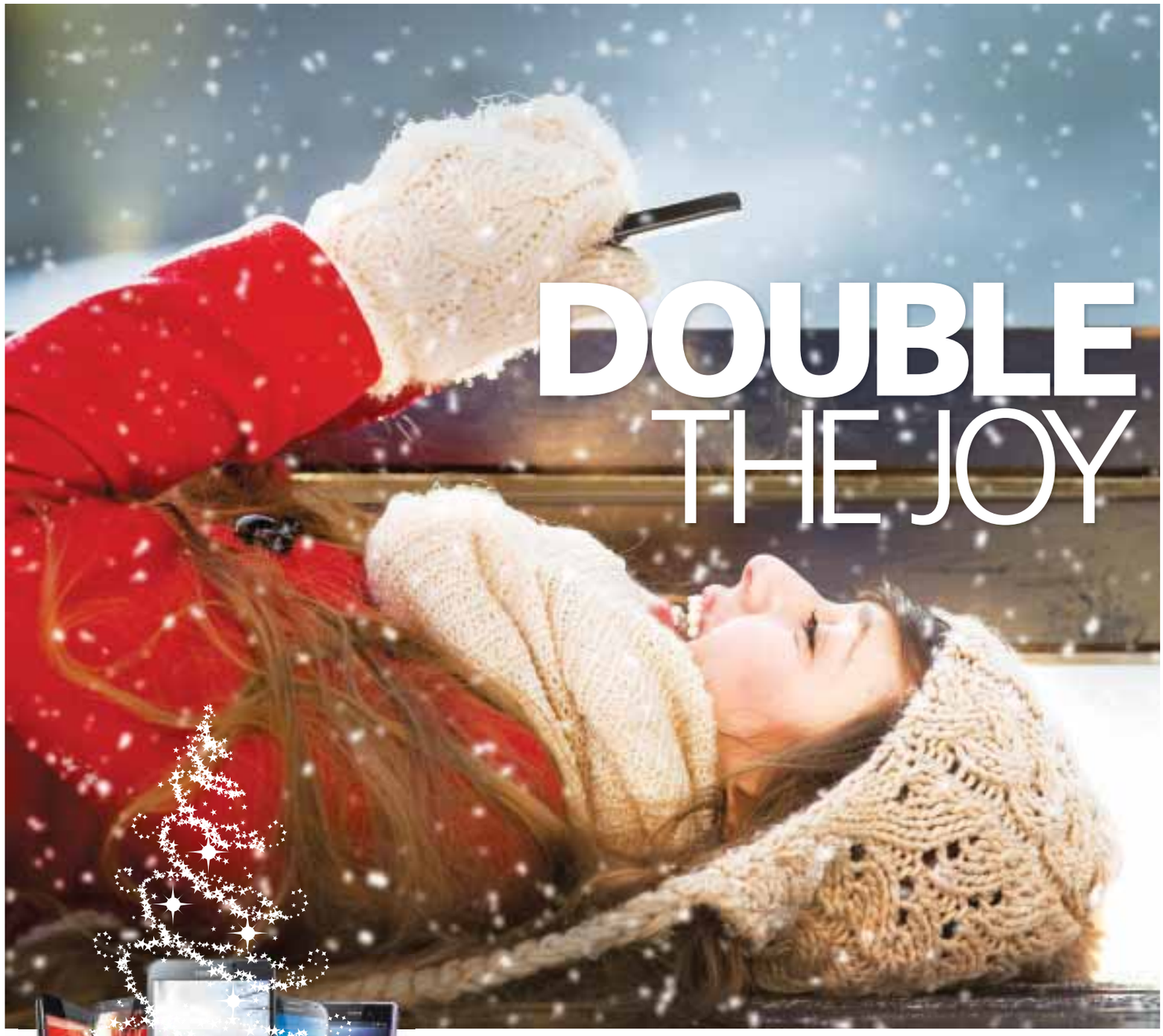

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North Korea executes Kim Jong-un's uncle

Pyongyang. News report calls him 'a traitor to the nation' and 'worse than a dog'

North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong-un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "dissolute and depraved life."

The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme power of our party and state."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong-un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

Some analysts see the purge as a sign of Kim Jong-un's growing confidence, but there has also been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack on the South.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, on Monday showing Jang Song Thaek, centre, being grabbed at a meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More aid promised

Ukraine will sign EU deal: Deputy PM

Ukraine's deputy prime minister said Thursday his financially troubled country will soon sign a trade and co-operation deal with the EU after the bloc promised more aid to the former Soviet republic.

Serhiy Arbuzov's comment came after a day of talks with EU Commissioner Stefan Fuele in Brussels, which were being closely watched by anti-government protesters in Ukraine who are demanding such a deal.

For weeks, activists have been amassed in Kyiv to protest Yanukovych's decision regarding the EU deal.

They are concerned that he could instead sign an agreement to join a Russia-led customs union when he and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rob Ford. Reporter serves mayor libel notice

Mayor Rob Ford was slapped with a libel notice late Thursday for televised comments he made about a reporter, who said the remarks amounted to an accusation of pedophilia.

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale would not comment on his suit that also names Vision TV, which aired the Ford interview, saying an article he wrote for his newspaper would have to stand.

"I'm asking Ford to immediately retract the false insinuation that I am a pedophile. I am also serving Vision TV, which twice broadcast Ford's vile and defamatory remarks ... even though their interview was filmed days before it aired," Dale wrote.

Ford said a day after the interview that he stood by "every word."

In the interview broadcast Monday, Ford told host Conrad Black that Dale had perpetrated the worst invasion of his privacy during a May 2012 incident.

"Daniel Dale is in my backyard taking pictures. I have little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford said.

Dale maintains he was writing a story about a plot of public land adjacent to Ford's house that the mayor wanted to buy, so he went to take a look when the mayor emerged from his home to confront him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday that he stands by "every word" he said during a televised interview in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Mayor goes to police with corruption scheme

Quebec's anti-corruption squad, known as UPAC, is giving Chateauguay Mayor Nathalie Simon full marks for filing a complaint with police this past September.

The mayor was hailed as a hero Thursday as the unit announced four arrests in a corruption sweep in the working-class town south of Montreal. Police allege the four men were trying to corrupt Simon with money and personal favours in exchange for decisions that would lead to influential positions within the city's administration or to land re-zoning for development projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless networks

CRTC to see if telecom giants gouge little guys

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will look into whether big wireless companies are charging their smaller Canadian competitors too much to use their networks.

The CRTC says some of the larger companies are charging — or want to charge — smaller Canadian companies "significantly higher" wholesale roaming rates than they charge wireless companies in the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada

Crew puts out fire mid-flight

Crew members aboard an Air Canada Express turboprop aircraft managed to put out an engine fire before returning to an airport on central Vancouver Island Thursday morning, says a Transportation Safety Board investigator.

Glen Friesen, the TSB's acting regional manager, said passengers saw flames in the plane's No. 2 engine shortly after the Dash 8-300 took off from the Nanaimo Airport.

"The crew extinguished the fire with the emergency fire bottles that are installed on each engine," said Friesen. There were no injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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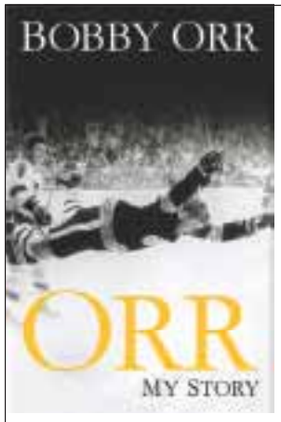

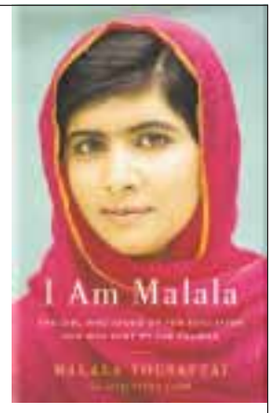

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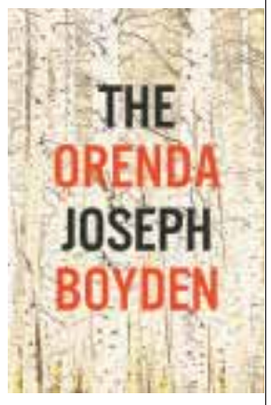

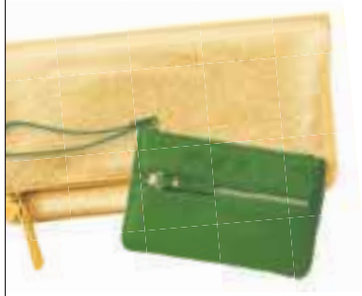

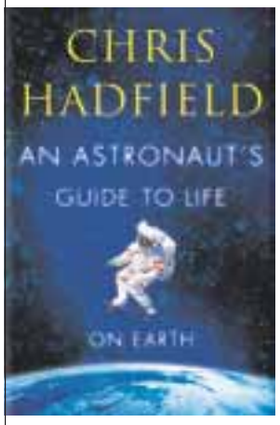

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Anti-government protests continue in Thailand

A protester uses a pair of wire cutters to snap and remove barbed wire erected by Thai police over the fence of the prime minister's office in Bangkok on Thursday. Protesters waging a surreal political fight to oust Thailand's elected prime minister are trying to establish what amounts to a parallel government — one complete with "security volunteers" to replace the police, a foreign policy of their own and a central committee that has already begun issuing audacious orders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blinded Chinese boy receives prosthetic eyes

Recovery. Six-year-old boy whose eyes were gouged was successfully fitted with prosthetics that look and move like normal eyes, but don't restore vision

Guo Bin — nicknamed Binbin — danced to music at a send-off ceremony at the C-MER Dennis Lam Eye Hospital in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where he expressed gratitude and happiness more than three months after a brutal attack left him blind.

The prosthetic eyes look and move much like normal eyes, but they do not restore vision. Doctors plan to fit Binbin with navigation sensors next summer that would allow him to get around on his own in familiar places.

Guo Bin smiles on Wednesday as he shows a card he drew saying "Thanks" at the hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police in the boy's hometown in northern China's Shanxi province say they suspect his aunt was the culprit in the attack, although they have not identified a motive. The woman has since committed suicide, and Binbin's parents have raised doubts.

On Thursday, the boy's mother said Binbin can put on his clothes, brush his teeth and climb stairs by himself, according to reports in Hong Kong media.

"He has adapted well and is smart," his mother, Wang Wenli, said before thanking the medical staff.

The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Doritos dusts off, dreams up more wacky eats

Next from the PepsiCo food innovation lab...
On the heels of Doritos Locos Tacos prepare for chip-topped wings and Mountain Dew sauces

Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavoured taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings. PepsiCo also said it would work with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith said that she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish. Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew.

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver. Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

PepsiCo clearly sees the idea of incorporating its snacks into menus as a major opportunity. At an analyst conference in Boca Raton, Fla., earlier this year, for example, the company sponsored a lunch featuring recipes using its Naked Juices, Frito chips and other products. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TimmyMe app

Two years after Starbucks, Tim's tries tap-and-pay

A limited number of Tim Hortons stores are now letting you pay for a double-double with your smartphone.

Participating outlets in Canada and the U.S. will allow users with some BlackBerry 10 devices, iPhones and Google Android smartphones to pay with a TimmyMe app.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Share with up to 15 peeps

Filter who gets that latest selfie on Instagram Direct

Instagram has added a new feature dubbed Instagram Direct that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular Facebook-owned photo-sharing app.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Licence to sue

Beastie Boys aim to set it straight, countersue toy co.

The Beastie Boys are firing back after a toy company sued them over a video parody of their song Girls. The two surviving members of the rap trio filed a lawsuit of their own claiming toy company GoldieBlox unfairly used the popular song as a jingle to sell its products.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drove her nutty

Queen not amused by nut-eating cops

A private investigator convicted of eavesdropping on the voice mails of royal staff told a tabloid editor that Queen Elizabeth II was annoyed because police officers ate the nuts laid out for Buckingham Palace guests. The tidbit was passed on by Clive Goodman to Andy Coulson, then editor of the now-defunct News of the World. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
93.98¢
(-0.42¢)

TSX
13,114.39 (-19.03)

OIL
$97.50 US (+$0.06)

GOLD
$1,224.90 US (-$32.30)

Natural gas: $4.37 US (+$0.03)
Dow Jones: 15,739.43 (-104.10)

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Offers exclude freight and air tax [$1,700/$1,650] / [$650 license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charge or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †Until January 31, 2014, receive [4.49%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L/F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 5.0L] models for up to [72] months to qualified customers, on approved credit [OAC] from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Set the above for [$26,999/$26,749] purchase financed at [4.49%] APR for [72] months, with [$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$430/$427] after total price adjustments of [Winter Safety Package cash alternative of [$0] and delivery allowance of [$1,250]]. (the sum of twelve [12] monthly payments divided by 26 periods; gives you a bi-weekly payment of [$198/$198]), interest cost of borrowing is [$3,809/$4,254] or APR of [4.49%/4.49%] and total to be repaid is [$30,808/$34,808]. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers exclude freight and air tax [$1,700] license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fee, any environmental charge, or fees, and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ‡ Offer valid between December 3 – 15, 2013 for 2014 models and until December 31, 2013 for 2013 models. 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THE GOOD PEOPLE WANT GANJA

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Asian cockroaches.** A new species has been discovered in the Big Apple. Recently identified by scientists as Periplaneta japonica, a genus native to Japan, the insect is known in China and Korea for its ability to survive in cold climates. New Yorkers remain unfazed by news of another living creature trying to survive and breed in their city.

2 **Grounded.** Last Friday, Tom Wagner fell asleep on a flight to Houston. He was overlooked by staff and awoke to find himself trapped in the dark aircraft. He called his girlfriend and she notified the airline, who eventually rescued him. Counter-terrorism agencies expressed concern over the news but airport security assured them that Wagner had nothing in his shoes and did not have a bottle of water.

3 **Mama knows.** Mothers' favourite gift this year is the FiLIP smartwatch. A colourful wristwatch doubling as a phone with voice and GPS so parents can keep track of their kids at all times. American women are currently lobbying for this same technology to be used in wedding rings.

4 **Everything I (Think I) Am.** Kanye West is the world's greatest artist. Just ask him. He appeared at his Texas concert wearing a mask and someone shouted, "Take it off." After having security eject the paid-ticket holder, Kanye cleared up any possibility of mistaken identity by declaring his full name. "I'm Kanye-motha-f–in-West!" he said. And no one's arguing that.

5 **Grass is greener.** Hashtag "cannabis" has been trending on Twitter, and not just because weed-smokers repeatedly tweeted while forgetting they had. Ganja is making news because public appeal for legalization is growing, while staunch opposers recycle archaic myths of reefer madness as they guzzle their spirit of choice. "It's a gateway drug," they say. Yes, the gateway to procrastination and poor gastronomical decisions. And last I checked, neither one of those is criminal.

6 **Heading south.** U.S. private equity firm Bain Capital has managed to overtake one of our country's great national treasures: Canada Goose. Current president Dani Reiss says that the corporation intends to maintain the high standards for outerwear that his family worked hard to create, and that they will continue to be made in Canada. Oh good, so we still won't be able to afford them.

7 **Hallelujah.** Time magazine's Person of the Year goes to Pope Francis! The people's pontiff was chosen for refocusing the church away from condemnation and back to basics like mercy, compassion and maybe even smoking weed.

8 **This week in music.** On Dec. 12, 1957, rock 'n' roll icon Jerry Lee Lewis, who was still married to his first wife, secretly wed his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. This "degenerate trifecta" raised interesting public debate about which was more disturbing: the bigamy, the incest, or the statutory rape. Now, that's what I call some Great Balls of Fire.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Burglary — it's monkey business

CYRIL RUOSO/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT NEWS

Baboons raid apartment for food

These baboons show they really are cheeky monkeys by breaking into an apartment, stealing food and parading their loot, including a giant teddy bear. Around 10 chacma baboons clambered into the third-floor flat in Cape Town, South Africa, and wreaked havoc, after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open. METRO

Photog says

"I am quite used to working with monkeys but I was amazed. When they came out with a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished."

Cyril Ruoso, wildlife photographer, 43, from France

Loss of habitat leads to urban raid

Due to loss of natural habitat, baboons on the Cape Peninsula are adapting to human environment, entering urban areas in search of food.

"The intimidation that the big males employ has become physical and my young son no longer feels safe in the house," says Pierrer de Villiers, who lives in the town of Scarborough on the peninsula. METRO

A baboon escapes with a teddy bear. SOLENT NEWS

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

The festive season is in full swing, which means there is an overwhelming amount of holiday indulgence and selfie-snapping. Here are some apps that can help you look flawless, albeit not so natural, in photos.

Facetune:

For $2.99, this photo-editing app for iPhone and iPad is the perfect tool to help you achieve a professional-looking, polished photo. Options include a function to smooth the appearance of wrinkles. Smooth not enough? There's a "smoother" option, too.

Pixtr:

Use this free app to instantly perfect your photos. Pixtr can automatically correct face symmetry and remove blemishes and wrinkles. It can work with solo images, as well as group shots, personalizing results for each subject.

Beauty Camera:

This free photo-editing app for Android is designed to make you look beautiful. Say there's no good light in the room for a photo — no worries! Beauty Camera can instantly change the lighting and tonal details in the photo. You can also compare the effects with the original photo.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A Vancouver bus driver isn't allowed to wear a Santa suit because it's against uniform policy. Should he be allowed?

@TrentRedekop: will it help him pick us up on time?

@EthanDR: "He might not be identifiable as the transit operator" ... umm he's the one driving the bus #IDENTIFIED!

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Synopsis

Picking up where An Unexpected Journey left off, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) join with Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and his army of 12 dwarves. Their goal is to traverse Mirkwood, Esgaroth and Dale to locate the fire-breathing dragon Smaug who hoards the wealth of the Lonely Mountain. On the way they battle giant spiders, make a deal with Bard the bowman (Luke Evans), the descendant of the original Lord of Dale, and some helpful and not-so-helpful elves (including a good lookin' and deadly She-Elf played by Evangeline Lilly).

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is more of an Unexpected Journey — only one that doesn't really go anywhere. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This Hobbit is hobbling

The Desolation of Smaug. J.R.R. Tolkien fans will surely geek out on the latest installment but one of the Reel Guys couldn't care less about the film

Richard: Mark, despite the sense of mild confusion I felt as I tried to piece the story together, I really enjoyed The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. It took a lot of backstory to get to the fifth film based on Middle-earth and its inhabitants and it will help if you know your Shire from your Sauron or your Skin Changers.

But having said that, Peter Jackson has crafted a great action adventure with the same consistency of tone, style and spirit that runs through the LOTR and Hobbit movies. They feel like story shards chipped off the same block.

Mark: Richard, there are two kinds of people in this world — those who admire and enjoy the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, and those who are repelled by his neo-medieval, Druidic nonsense.

You can guess which camp I fall into. I sat through the Rings trilogy under great duress, and skipped the first Hobbit entirely. So the only question was how much I would loathe this picture. The good news is: not that much. True, the entire movie and everyone in it needs a haircut, but the set pieces worked, especially the barrel escape down the river and the entire dragon sequence. But the movie felt so long I could have flown to Tokyo for dinner and gotten back in time for the end credits.

RC: I think fans will find the length just about right… non-fans, maybe not so much. This one worked for me. There's a Richard Attenborough old school epicness about it. It is about good and evil without troubling nuance or anti-heroes.

Perhaps because Englishman Tolkien penned these action adventure stories during the Second World War when evil was clear-cut, his books are ripe with allegory but straightforward in their approach to morality and good vs. evil.

MB: A good point, but maybe it's precisely that serious, hectoring tone that always turned me off. Evangeline Lilly, on the other hand, did not turn me off — quite the opposite.

She really holds the screen even if her ears need cosmetic surgery. But the ending — a cliffhanging cheat, if you ask me — elicited a collective groan from the audience and made the experience feel incomplete. Did you like the dark look of the picture?

RC: I did like the look. It's darker in tone than the Hobbit books for sure, but I thought it suited Peter Jackson's take on the story. I also liked the Walking Dead style battle scenes — lots of arrows in heads.

MB: I kept hoping for someone to show up with a gun and put them all out of my misery.

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Lots of talent, but little gold to go around

Golden Globes noms. It's a crowded field and the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't seem to know what funny is

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Awards season is officially here, thanks to the announcements of the Golden Globe nominations, and the best word to describe this year's crop is crowded. So crowded, in fact, that some heavy hitters have been almost left out.

Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave is still considered the lead favourite, with nominations for the film itself, director McQueen, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o, screenwriter John Ridley and composer Hans Zimmer.

But with such a crowded year it's easy for votes to get split. At least McQueen doesn't have to worry about David O. Russell's nomination-heavy American Hustle until the Oscars, as the Hollywood Foreign Press (HFPA) have placed it in the musical or comedy category (see sidebar).

Though it earned several nominations earlier in the week from the Screen Actors Guild, Lee Daniels' the Butler didn't garner a mention — not even for Oprah Winfrey, despite the HFPA's starstruck reputation. And while Martin Scorsese's Wolf of Wall Street nabbed nominations for the film and star Leonardo DiCaprio, it didn't make the cut in any other major category. Sorry, Scorsese.

Ejiofor, Idris Elba and Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be pulling double duty come the night of the awards, with nominations in both the film and television categories. And ceremony co-host Amy Poehler might have to take a break to make an acceptance speech, as she's up for her work on Parks and Recreation.

But what's most noteworthy about the television nominations is what and who didn't get nominated. The HFPA obviously didn't respond to the most recent season of Mad Men, as the series didn't score a single nod. Neither did HBO's Game of Thrones or Showtime's Homeland. And while Downton Abbey earned a nomination for the series itself, none of the cast — not even Maggie Smith — warranted a mention.

The Golden Globes will be awarded during a televised ceremony Jan. 12, four days before the Academy Awards nominations are announced.

That's not funny!

The HFPA is earning more than the usual amount of criticism this year for its musical or comedy film categories not really honouring musicals or comedy. Some of the films filling the top category — best picture musical or comedy (American Hustle, Her, Inside Llewyn Davis, Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street) shouldn't really be considered comedies, critics are arguing. Producers have been criticized in the past for positioning serious fare in the comedy category to increase a film's chances.

Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde have a laugh before announcing the noms for the Golden Globes on Thursday in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nominations

- **Best Motion Picture Drama.** 12 Years a Slave; Captain Phillips; Gravity; Philomena; Rush
- **Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** American Hustle; Her; Inside Llewyn Davis; Nebraska; The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best Director.** Alfonso Cuaron - Gravity; Paul Greengrass - Captain Phillips; Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave; Alexander Payne - Nebraska; David O. Russell - American Hustle
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Drama.** Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years a Slave; Idris Elba - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom; Tom Hanks - Captain Phillips; Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club; Robert Redford - All is Lost
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Christian Bale - American Hustle; Bruce Dern - Nebraska; Leonardo DiCaprio, - the Wolf of Wall Street; Oscar Isaac - Inside Llewyn Davis; Joaquin Phoenix - Her
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Drama.** Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine; Sandra Bullock - Gravity; Judi Dench - Philomena; Emma Thompson - Saving Mr. Banks; Kate Winslet - Labor Day
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Amy Adams - American Hustle; Julie Delpy - Before Midnight; Greta Gerwig - Frances Ha; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Enough Said; Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best Drama Series.** Breaking Bad; Downtown Abbey; the Good Wife; House of Cards; Masters of Sex
- **Best Comedy Series.** The Big Bang Theory; Brooklyn Nine-Nine; Girls; Modern Family; Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Drama Series.** Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad; Lieve Schreiber - Ray Donovan; Michael Sheen - Masters of Sex; Kevin Spacey - House of Cards; James Spader - The Blacklist
- **Best Actress in a TV Drama Series.** Julianna Margulies - the Good Wife; Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black; Taylor Schilling - Orange is the New Black; Kerry Washington - Scandal; Robin Wright - House of Cards
- **Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series.** Zooey Deschanel - New Girl; Lena Dunham - Girls; Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep; Amy Poehler - Parks and Recreation

Taylor Schilling received a nom for her role in Orange is the New Black. CONTRIBUTED

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 13 TO THURS., DEC. 19 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Southland Mall
3025 Gordon Rd.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 7:15-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:30-8:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed 1:35-5:30-8:30 No Passes Thu 5:30-8:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 6:50-9:55 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:55 Mon-Tue 5:55-8:50 Wed 1:25-5:55-8:50 Thu 5:55-8:50
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri 7:45-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 12:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:45-5:15-8:45 No Passes Mon-Tue 7 No Passes Wed 1:25-7 No Passes Thu 7
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 7:15-10:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:35 No Passes Mon-Tue 5:20-8:45 No Passes Wed 1:15-5:20-8:45 No Passes Thu 5:20-8:45
Homefront (14A) Fri 7:55-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:50-7:55-10:20 Mon-Tue 6-8:25 Wed 1:35-6-8:25 Thu 6-8:25
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7:20-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7:20-10:30 Mon-Tue 5:45-9 Wed 1:45-5:45-9 Thu 5:45-9
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:40-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:40-8:15 Wed 1:45-5:40-8:15 Thu 5:40-8:15
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat-Sun 12:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:25-10:15 Sat-Sun 4:30-7:25-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35

Galaxy Cinemas Normanview S.C.
420 McCarthy Blvd. N. Unit

American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30-10:25
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sat 4:50-7:25-10:05 Sun 12:30-3:05-10:30 Mon-Tue 7:45-10:20
Frozen (G) Fri 4:15-6:50 Sat 10:55-1:35-4:15-6:50 Sun 1:35-4:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:55
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:45-3:45-7:40-10:25 Sun 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 7:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 5:20-9 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 9:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 4:40-8:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 7:30 No Passes Wed 7:35 No Passes Thu 8:20 No Passes Fri 3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4:40-8:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 8:30 No Passes Fri 3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 7-10:30 No Passes Thu 7:10-10:35
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 4:10-7:30-9:45-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-9:45-10:45 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:40-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 11:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 4:50-7:45-10:35 Sat 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:35 Sun 4:50-7:45-10:35 Mon-Tue 7:25-10:05 Wed 9:20
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) No Passes Thu 7-9:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 4:05-7:05-10 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-10 Mon-Wed 7:10-10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 7

Kramer IMAX Theatre
2903 Powerhouse Dr.

Kenya 3D: Animal Kingdom (STC) Fri 3:30-7 Sat 1-3:30-7 Sun 1-3:30
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Sat 2:15-4:45 Sun 2:15

Golden Mile
3806 Albert St.

About Time (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:10
All Is Lost (G) Fri-Thu 4-9:20
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 9:10
Carrie (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:50
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:40
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:35-9:15
Escape Plan (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:05
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:35-9:15
How I Live Now (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-7
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:45-6:35-9:15
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:40-9:20

Regina Public Library Film Theatre, 23 11 12th Ave.

Haute Cuisine (PG) Thu 9
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Wed 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Tue
Vic & Flo Saw a Bear (STC) Thu 7

Great Odin's Raven! Burgundy is back

Anchorman 2 brings its style, class and fine taste in scotch to theatres next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

Anchorman 2.

Will Ferrell swore he'd never make a sequel ... OK maybe just one

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

There's a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table of Will Ferrell's suite at Toronto's Carlton-Ritz and as we settle down to chat in the plush chairs, the glossy one on top grabs his attention. He picks it up and flourishes his hand across its cover — a picture of a panda munching on a bamboo shoot.

"How apropos that there's a panda on the cover of this magazine, which was the big story in the first Anchorman. The panda story," he reminisces. "It's too bad they're almost extinct now. But let's not talk about that."

Indeed. Time is of the essence and Ferrell's got a few more upbeat things to wax about — like Anchorman 2 and his whirlwind promotion tour. Prior to touching down in Toronto earlier this month, he'd pulled a few Ron Burgundy stunts — co-anchoring a local newscast in Bismarck, N.D., and co-hosting the Roar of the Rings curling tournament in Winnipeg. But it's all a labour of love for Ferrell, who together with his co-writer Adam McKay, once swore they'd never do sequels — a claim with an asterisk for one special movie. "We would always have this sidebar conversation where it was 'well, if we ever were to do a sequel one day, it would probably be Anchorman,'" he says.

The original Anchorman reached almost cult-like status when it came out on DVD nearly 10 years ago. For a time, its jokes were fodder for every armchair comic. "People just started falling in love with this movie on a different level after repeat viewings," says Ferrell.

In Anchorman 2, Ron Burgundy and his reunited crew (Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner) face a new decade – the '80s – with new challenges: a 24-hour cable news channel and – gasp — a female African American boss. In terms of joke density, Anchorman 2 packs in as many as the first and even more cameos. Kanye West, Will Smith, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Liam Neeson and Harrison Ford are just a fraction of the big names in the film.

"That's the love people have for Anchorman. We kept hearing from people and had them reaching out to us."

Quoted

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental."

Will Ferrell on the crew reprising their newscasting roles in Anchorman 2

Ferrell says they even set their sights on Brad Pitt, who he wanted to play Ron Burgundy's pretty boy nemesis — anchor Jack Lime — but when Pitt declined, Ferrell and McKay brought in James Marsden. "We just did an informal read-through of the script to see how jokes were playing and Marsden read that part and we were like 'he's the guy,'" he says.

Ferrell adds the filmmaking felt more like a reunion party. "Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental and it was like, 'wow, we're actually going to do this again.'"

"It's cliché sounding but I don't know if I've worked more closely with any cast, the way we get along and how we have this shared sense of letting each other be funny all at the same time and there's no real competition. That's rare."

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Emma Thompson on the cusp of crotchety

Saving Mr. Banks.
Actress puts an interesting twist on a character that could have fallen to stereotype

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Just before our chat with Saving Mr. Banks star Emma Thompson, the British actress had wowed a press conference audience with a rather athletic entrance, vaulting herself over the dais — legs lifting high over the table — to get to her seat. The display was a far cry from P.L. Travers, her terse on-screen alter ego in Banks. But then there's a lot Thompson and Travers don't have in common.

I wanted to commend you on a fantastic entrance to the press conference.
Essentially what you have to understand is that spiritually I always carry a bladder on a stick and wear a cap and bells. I must, I think, in a past life been some sort of court jester. Because I seem to make it my aim in life to get a laugh. Any way you can.

And may I say, you're quite limber. I don't know that I could've managed that.
You can always go down and have a go later.

I found it a bit distracting in this film that you're far too young for the part.
Well, I'm not far too young. I'm 54 and she was 66 at the time. I also think I look very old — suitably and properly old. Travers herself liked to divide a woman's life into three main parts: nymph, mother and crone. So I said, "Why don't we just play her on that cusp between mother and crone?" There's still a kind of Eros, an erotic possibility for her, but you can see that it's never going to happen because she's too closed up. I think that's more interesting because you can see the possibility there, and you're not playing a crotchety old lady — who is rather more easy, because of the way that our world works, to dismiss.

What are your thoughts on that simplified trio of life stages?
I kind of like it. I think it's interesting, you know, with the seven ages of man being another format, if you like, for thinking about the stages of our lives. And I personally think everything is always happening at once, if you see what I mean. I think that we carry it with us all the time, so you don't necessarily leave anything behind. It's all coming with you.

You've mentioned a problem with trying to find heroic historical female characters to look to. How do we fix that?
There are many things you can do. There's two questions: What is heroism? Is it action? Does it have to be action-based? As I started to [work] in cinema I realized that I would identify with Marlon Brando because he was the one getting to do things and that women seemed to be the ones saying, "No, don't do that brave thing, stay here with me," I started to get very frustrated with that. And I remain frustrated with that because it's still a very common trope. I turned down role after role after role in my 30s which were the wife going, "No please! Why don't you think of us? Think of the children!" That sort of milksop, marshmallow-y stuff that wasn't even allowed to be inhabited in any real way. But the problem with female heroism is not one that's very easy to answer because if the actions are going to be the same as the male hero, then what do you do? You stick a gun in their hands. What's the point of that? It's the same old, same old. It's a real conundrum.

Emma Thompson plays the curmudgeonly P.L. Travers in Saving Mr. Banks, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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Honoured as Billboard's woman of year, Pink says husband deserves some credit

Interview. A top tour, MTV awards and millions of units sold has the pop act flying high as the accolades keep rolling in

Pink performs during her The Truth About Love Tour. It wraps up Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.. HANDOUT

While she's excited her ballad Just Give Me a Reason is nominated for the song of the year Grammy, Pink says she believes her husband deserves some credit for its success.

The track, which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three weeks, is about holding on to a troubled relationship.

"It means everything because it's a conversation between lovers fighting the good fight and that's been our life," Pink said in an interview Tuesday, standing next to her motorcycle racer husband, Carey Hart. "Our family is everything to us."

The 34-year-old often details their rocky relationship in her music.

"At the end of the day I crawl onto his lap and complain, so if someone wants to award me for that, they should give him the award," she said.

Pink was in great spirits Tuesday in New York City, where Billboard named the pop star its woman of the year.

"It's been a long road," she said. "It's been a roller coaster and I'm on board for the rises and the falls of it all."

Pink's successful year includes a top-grossing international tour and awards, an MTV Video Music Award among them. The Truth About Love, her sixth album released last year, has sold 1.8 million units.

Family life

"It means everything because it's a conversation between lovers fighting the good fight and that's been our life ... At the end of the day I crawl onto his lap and complain, so if someone wants to award me for that, they should give him the award"

Pink
Talking about the support she receives from her husband Carey Hart

Just Give Me a Reason, which has sold 4 million tracks and features Nate Ruess of fun., is also nominated for best pop duo or group performance at the Jan. 26 Grammy Awards.

Pink, who has won four Grammys, said being up for the coveted song of the year is unreal.

"That's a new thing for me," she said. "It's a pinch-me moment. I'm afraid to cross the street."

Her hit will battle anthems from Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Lorde and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

But at the Billboard event, camaraderie was key: Pink congratulated R&B singer Janelle Monae, who was honoured as music's rising star, while sister duo Tegan and Sara and Scottish band Chvrches performed. Debbie Harry, Kimberly Perry of the Band Perry, Andy Cohen, Matt Lauer and Melanie Fiona attended the event.

Pink's The Truth About Love Tour wraps Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who listens to the radio?

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Here are three more examples of stuff you'll never, ever hear played over the airwaves

I'm Not a Young Man Anymore – The Velvet Underground

It was only performed live once and never turned up on any bootlegs. From the 45th anniversary reissue of White Light/White Heat. One needs to hear it to believe it.

Sweet Child O' Mine – Some three year-old kid

You'll be blown away by this kid playing along to Gun N' Roses. To be that coordinated and musical at age three is almost alien.

Krampus Carol – Craterface

Given that the song is based on a mythical Satan-like creature who punished naughty children at Christmastime, this isn't your grandma's Christmas carol.

Did anyone order Kevin a plain cheese?

Home Alone star. Macaulay Culkin forms Velvet Underground cover band, names it Pizza Underground, sings about the 'za

Whenever you see that Macaulay Culkin is trending on a search engine or your social media feed, it's a little scary.

What with gossip columnists constantly quoting sources who are apparently close to the Home Alone star, saying that he's got a massive drug problem and is going to die any day now. Though, we should point out that what we're about to report doesn't really dispel any notion of a massive drug problem, but at least he appears to be using these drugs productively: to form a Velvet Underground cover band and sing about pizza.

Macaulay Culkin. GETTY IMAGES

His latest project, which is so awesomely absurd that we'd love it even if it didn't involve him, is called the Pizza Underground, and they dress like the Velvet Underground, and they play songs that sound a lot like existent Velvet Underground songs (as well as Lou Reed songs and a Nico song thrown in for good measure), but with all of the words changed so that the songs are all about pizza.

Pizza is sung to the chorus melody of Sweet Jane, Papa John Says is sung to the tune of Stephanie Says and I'm Beginning to Eat the Slice, is (pretty awesomely, obviously) sung to the tune of I'm Beginning to See the Light.

Lou Reed would definitely be proud. PAT HEALY/MWN

Best lyrics

Some of our favorite lyrics

- **Lyric #1.** 'Here she comes, you'd better hide your slice'
- **Lyric #2.** 'Jack, he eats the cheese, Jane, she eats the zone'

Madonna. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Madge splits with (much) younger beau

Madonna has split up with boyfriend Brahim Zaibat after three years of dating, the singer's rep confirms to Us Weekly. "It ran its course," a source says. "They were dancing and working together all the time, and then they barely saw each other." Madonna first started dating the then-25-year-old dancer in 2010 before hiring him on as a backup dancer for her 2012 world tour.

Paul Walker

Investigation into Walker crash could take 90 days

Funeral services will be held this weekend for Paul Walker, but the cause of the Nov. 30 car crash that claimed the lives of the Fast and Furious star and his friend, Roger Rodas, could remain a mystery for up to 90 days as authorities investigate, according to the Hollywood Reporter. A police spokesman says that any reports at this point about what caused the Porsche Carrera GT Rodas was driving to strike a light pole, two trees and a street sign are purely speculative. A coroner's report has already ruled the deaths to be accidental.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Barron Hilton beating

Paris-Lindsay smackdown still has legs

It looks like Lindsay Lohan might not be in the clear just yet for the alleged beating of Barron Hilton in Miami last week, as the hotel heir — and younger brother to Paris Hilton — had his lawyer reach out to Miami Beach police to discuss their investigation, according to Radar Online.

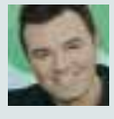
"A meeting is being scheduled for Mr. Hilton to give a formal statement about the incident," a police spokesman says. Hilton reportedly wants Lohan's friend Ray LeMoine charged for the attack, but he'd initially backed off. "He has been made aware that there are incriminating photos that, if released, could tell a very different side of what took place," a source says. While Lohan hasn't currently been implicated in the incident, sources say Hilton believes she ordered LeMoine to beat him up.

KFed reproduces... for the sixth time

Kevin Federline is going to be a dad again. The former back-up dancer and husband to Britney Spears is expecting his second child with wife Victoria Prince, which will make six kids total for Federline, according to E! News. Federline is also the father to Spears' two sons, Jayden James and Sean Preston, as well as a son and daughter with ex-girlfriend Shar Jackson.

Kevin Federline

Twitter



@SethMacFarlane
And the award for most badass name goes to Randolph Mantooth.

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If Justin Bieber just tweeted 'fart' would it break the internet?

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This is that loving time of year where you really want to be around the people who didn't screw you over.

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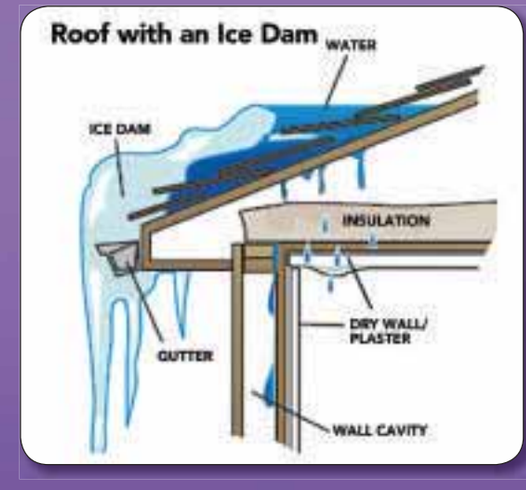

An ice dam can occur when snow accumulates on the roof of a house with inadequate insulation. Heat conducted through the insufficient insulation warms the roof and melts the snow on those areas of the roof that are above living spaces, but does not melt the snow on roof overhangs. Eventually, ice accumulates along the eave and in the gutter. Snow that melts later cannot drain properly through the ice on the eave and in the gutter, resulting in leaks which lead to damaged ceilings, walls, roof structures and insulation. There is no better time to protect your home.

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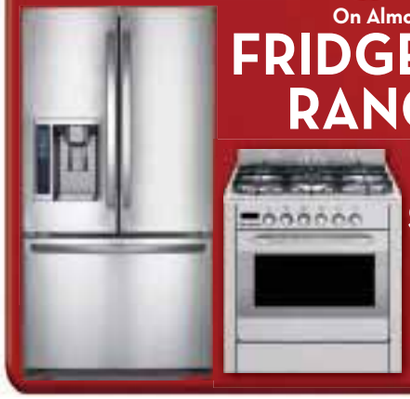

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All I want for Christmas

iPad Air — $519 and up

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Electronics are one of the most popular holiday gifts. Don't disappoint by giving someone outdated tech. Here are some of the hottest gadgets to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

iPad Air — $519 and up
A new iPad that is as light as air. Weighing only 0.45 kilograms (one pound), this latest tablet from Apple features a thinner design, smaller bezel and incredibly fast processing power. With almost half a million apps available this really is a gift anyone can enjoy.

FitBit Force — $129.99
Give the gift of healthy living. The FitBit Force tracks your daily activities such as steps taken, distance travelled, and calories burned and then lets you see them in real time across multiple devices. It tracks your sleep at night and wakes you up with a silent alarm.

iPhone 5s — $719 (no contract)
The world's first 64-bit smartphone. Faster processor, better graphical capabilities and a much better camera are just a few of the features that make this smartphone stand out from the pack. Plus, a TouchID scanner keeps your device locked using your fingerprint as the key.

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract)
A smartphone for those who love a large screen. Paired with the S Pen (stylus) you can write notes, draw on maps or edit photos without relying on your fingers. It will also transcribe your handwriting into text.

Sony 4K Ultra HDTV — $4,499.99
Help someone build the ultimate man cave with Sony's latest television that boasts four times the resolution of HDTV. This TV up-converts HD video into 4K resolution, which is handy since true 4K content is quite limited. Gamers will love the feature that allows two player games with no split screen.

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99
Wearable technology is finally here. Pair it with select Samsung smartphones to receive notifications of incoming emails and texts. Make phone calls from your watch or snap pictures and record video with the built-in camera.

Dyson Hard — $349.99
Vacuums may not seem like a great gift, but this vacuum breaks all the rules. This high-tech, cordless Dyson Hard is specifically designed for cleaning hard flooring. Using dual suction channels, it sucks up debris as it removes grime using a wet wipe in a single action. Wet wipes are sold separately.

Beats Audio speakers with subwoofer will provide rich, dynamic sound for those who want more out of their computer.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US
The world's smallest Micro Four Thirds camera to date. Fashionable design, yet loaded with features. Budding photographers will love the intelligent assistance that will help you take the perfect photo, while experienced shutterbugs can take advantage of full manual controls. Built-in Wi-Fi makes sharing those memories even easier.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US, clockwise, from left, FitBit Force — $129.99, Dyson Hard — $349.99, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract), and Sony 4K Ultra HD TV — $4,499.99.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US
Use it like a regular desktop PC in the upright position, or recline the monitor flat and use it as a large tablet. The 10-point touchscreen ensures you will get the most out of Windows 8 while the integrated

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US

For more holiday gift ideas, please visit holiday.metronews.ca

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Holiday gift guide

12 shopping days left

Gather all ye around a video game

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Video games continue to be a hot holiday gift for both young and old. Here are some of the top titles for all ages this holiday season.

The Last of Us — PS3
This character-driven action adventure is easily one of the best games for the Playstation 3 this year. A virus spreads across the U.S., turning the population into deadly abominations. An unlikely duo must make their way across a post-pandemic U.S. in the unlikely hope of bringing it all to an end. While the game is amazing, the language and fright factor means mature gamers only.

Beyond: Two Souls — PS3
An incredible psychological action-thriller featuring the voices of Canada's own Ellen Page, along with William Dafoe. A young women possesses supernatural powers through a psychic link to an invisible entity. This game is completely different from any other on the market. Features incredible storytelling, playing out more as a movie than an action game.

Skylanders Swap Force — Multiple consoles
A new adventure with new characters. This time, Skylanders figurines (physical toys that come to life in the game) break apart in the middle so you can mix and match bodies to create all new characters. Kids (and adults) will love the funny new story, but be prepared to shell out cash for all the figurines to see everything Skylanders Swap Force has to offer.

Disney Infinity — Multiple consoles
A magical mix of Minecraft, Skylanders and Disney. Plastic Disney characters come to life on your TV once you place them on a special base. Create worlds, bring in your favourite Pixar or Disney character, then let your imagination run wild. The possibilities in this game are endless.

Grand Theft Auto 5 — Xbox 360, PS3
Take on the role of three criminals in the latest instalment of this controversial franchise. GTA 5 features one of the largest and diverse open worlds to discover. Fight rival street gangs, pull off dramatic heists or simply explore the vast city of Los Santos. This groundbreaking series is filled with violence and coarse language so don't even consider purchasing this for youngsters. Mature gamers only.

Gotham's most dangerous villains and assassins, this game features a young Batman still in the early stages of his career as a crime fighter. This title introduces the notorious villains Batman will find himself fighting for years to come. A must-have for comic book lovers on your list.

Pokemon X/Y — Nintendo 3DS
This classic Nintendo franchise gets a massive overhaul just in time for the holidays. This is the first Pokemon game to feature full 3D environments. With all new Pokemon to collect and a campaign that will take 30-plus hours to complete, this new title will satisfy fans both old and new.

Super Mario 3D World — Wii U
The perfect game to play as a family. Super Mario 3D World is the first 3D Mario platformer for Nintendo's Wii U console. Play as Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad as you overcome wildly creative obstacles. Get ready for new power-ups like the cat suit and new never-seen-before enemies like sand Goombas.

Batman Arkham Origins — Xbox 360, PS3
Taking place before the rise of

Far Cry 3 — Xbox 360, PS3
Stranded in a tropical paradise and fighting to survive, Far Cry 3 brings incredible game play with one of the most memorable villains. Explore an island full of secrets and use the environment to craft items and weapons to help you survive.

Dead Rising 3 — Xbox One
Zombies have never been more popular. This Vancouver-developed title for Microsoft's Xbox One console will have you crafting makeshift weapons to take on a hoards of flesh-eating zombies before a military strike wipes the city you are stranded in off the map. The clock is ticking — can you make it out alive?

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag — Multiple consoles
Take the helm of your ship and live the life of a pirate. Explore open waters and dive for treasure in this historical action-adventure featuring many figures from the golden age of piracy. This franchise has been a favourite, and the latest instalment looks absolutely gorgeous.

Wrap with scrap

Feeling eco-minded about your festive gift wrap? No one likes to see all that expensive paper filling up the trash.

So go green this season and try some of these ideas, compiled with the help of Toronto-based eco crafts expert Mona Dhanjal, and wrap with scrap.

- Turn an old book into a fancy reusable gift box by carving out the pages with a utility knife. Then line it with felt and glue on some old holiday cards.
- Glue old photos or postcards to bags, boxes or paper to make unique wrap or gift tags with a personal touch. Trim with fancy edges using pinking shears.
- Paint an old suitcase festive colours, glue on travel stickers or a festive scene cut out of old holiday wrap or cards, and tie on a shipping tag and a big red bow. Fill it with hard-to-wrap gifts. Doubles as perfect storage for holiday ornaments.
- Turn leftover wallpaper into beautiful origami boxes. You can get easy instructions online.
- Bits of felt can be used to make gift tags or little pouches and envelopes.
- Wrap in burlap. It's biodegradable, it looks great and it's reusable.
- Sew or knit a handy reusable tote bag from bits of cloth with holiday designs, velvet and lace.
- Fill a pretty wicker basket with gift items and dress it up with a bow — no need to wrap.
- Instead of holiday gift wrap, wrap using other scrap paper such as old magazines, sheet music, maps or calendars.
- Embellish gifts with items found in nature, like berry sprigs, pinecones, or sprigs of greenery.
- Wire miniature orphaned ornaments and beads together to add luxe to a simple gift tag.
- Crumple, iron and pleat used tissue paper, then layer it on gift boxes or bags. **MICHELLE WILLIAMS**

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DOUBLING DONATIONS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Lee Knafelc, PotashCorp vice-president, human resources and administration.

JACOB MORGAN PHOTO

As a Saskatchewan-based company, PotashCorp is committed to issues of food security and tackling hunger in the province.

Again this holiday season, PotashCorp launched a $1-million matching gift campaign to support food banks. The company is matching every dollar donated to food banks in Saskatchewan through Jan. 15, 2014, up to a maximum of $1 million.

Since 2010, these annual matching gift campaigns, combined with PotashCorp's support, have raised more than $6.5 million to provide nutritious food to those in need at a total of 35 food banks.

"We recognize that food security isn't just an issue for communities overseas," says said Lee Knafelc, PotashCorp's vice-president, human resources and administration. "Our neighbours in communities across this province also worry about feeding their families. Saskatchewan's food banks know this all too well and PotashCorp is pleased to play a role in building our community by supporting the campaign again this year."

According to the national Hunger-Count 2013 report, Saskatchewan has experienced a 26.6 per cent increase in food bank usage since 2008, and 43.8 per cent of individuals assisted by food banks are children.

The report also discusses how regions that experience rapid economic growth often have shortages of affordable rental units. Since 66.3 per cent of Saskatchewan's food bank users live in rental units, this increases their cost of living and leaves less money to spend on food.

The funds raised through the matching gift campaign will help food banks across the province buy supplies and equipment, restock shelves and provide support services.

PotashCorp has a history of engaging and educating about food security issues. Other examples of the company's commitment include co-founding the Global Institute for Food Security and partnering with the international charity Free The Children.

As part of the province's bioscience cluster, the institute seeks economic and policy solutions to food security issues while promoting the province and its agriculture. Also, as the founding partner of the Agriculture and Food Security pillar of Free The Children's established Adopt a Village development model, PotashCorp is having both a global and local impact with initiatives such as We Day Saskatchewan.

regina foodbank

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reginafoodbank.ca

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And, again this holiday season, PotashCorp is going to help by matching up to $1 million in cash donations made to food banks across Saskatchewan.

For every dollar you donate, PotashCorp will donate one too.

Help us provide hope and hampers to those in need.

Please donate to your local food bank today.

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Helping Nature Provide

GIFTS OF HOPE: WHEN GIVING IS RECEIVING

Two years ago, Ginger and Scott McClelland decided to see if they could make Christmas a little bit more about giving than receiving. After going through a Gifts of Hope catalogue they had received in the mail, the Ottawa couple chose baby chicks to give to all of their grandchildren.

Gifts of Hope are ethical gifts, which means they give twice — here and abroad. Ginger and Scott felt these gifts were the perfect way to introduce a special kind of holiday giving to their grandchildren. Once the four children, who ranged in age from 10 to 14, had opened the gift card with the picture of a fluffy baby chick on the front, Ginger and Scott explained how the chicks would help support a family in Africa.

"And the kids got very excited very quickly about the gift," Ginger says. "The youngest, Emma, even sent a letter to Santa Claus asking him to make sure the gift got to the family on time."

But the best part of the story was yet to come.

When Christmas came around the following year, the adults in the family agreed that they would exchange Gifts of Hope. However, during the gift exchange the really big surprise was that the four kids had decided that they would exchange Gifts of Hope with each other as well.

"All in all, I think we gave 12 Gifts of Hope, ranging from newborn checkup and a bed net to chicks, a goat, three hens and a rooster," Ginger says. "Our gift to each other was literacy training for two women.

"Sometimes you look at what happens at Christmas and think 'we may be missing the whole point,'" Scott says. "But it was a very emotional and special Christmas last year, and I was incredibly proud of my family."

Gifts of Hope provided everyone in the McClelland family a wonderful way to help make someone else's life a little better and to feel good about it.

"Gifts of Hope really are a unique gift-giving opportunity," says Sangita Patel, director of program management at Plan Canada.

"For people who purchase a gift, it's a way to give a socially conscious gift and to avoid crowded malls. For the recipient, the gift is contributing to important work overseas. For the children of the community that receives the gift, it's about changing and improving their lives."

Plan Canada is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Founded in 1937, it works in 69 countries and more than 90,000 communities around the world. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's increasingly popular year-round ethical giving program, especially popular during the holiday period.

For parents — and grandparents like the McClellands — a Gift of Hope is a great tool to very gently and in a positive way expose children to what life is like for other children in other places, Patel says.

"They provide such a nice teachable moment for kids amidst the holiday rush."

Gifts of Hope support Plan Canada programs in the areas of education, health, clean water, and livelihoods. Fifteen of the gifts are also designated as "Because I am a Girl" gifts, which go to support the work Plan does that directly benefits girls and women.

"These gifts help to unleash the power of girls and women to create a brighter, safer future for girls in the developing world," Patel says.

Gifts suit any budget, ranging in price from $10 for anti-malaria bed nets to $75 for a goat to $1,000 for water and sanitation for communities. Sometimes the dollar value of the gift is matched by a government, foundation or corporate partner for even more impact.

"It's a great way to show care for what's happening in other places," Patel says. "And to show children how one gift can make lives better for other kids and families."

One of the McClelland's grandchildren, Ben, 14, says that the Gift of Hope chicks seemed "kind of weird" at first.

"But after I learned more about it, it felt like you could really help other people, and it was nice to be giving something rather than always just getting a lot."

Ginger and Scott McClelland with their grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE REAL LIVES

In all, there are 42 Gifts of Hope to choose from, ranging in price from $10 to $50,000. Every gift comes with a free greeting card or e-card, and 26 of the gifts are matched by government, foundation or organizational partners. Here are some examples:

- Bed nets, $10 (matched for a $70 value)
- School essentials for one child, $17 (matched for a $119 value)
- Birth certificate, $25 (matched for $125 value)
- Newborn checkup, $30 (matched for a $120 value)
- Clean water for families, $75 (matched for $225 value)
- Literacy training for two women, $120 (matched for $600 value)
- Farm load of animals, $190 (matched for a $760 value)
- Help orphaned children affected by HIV, $75 (matched for a $1,200 value)

To see more Gifts of Hope or to place an order, visit plangifts.com or call 1-800-387-1418.

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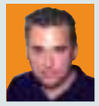

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@easttlink.ca

As sure as Rudolph was a reindeer, you're going to feel some level of stress over the holidays — possibly when choosing a wine to match with your family feast.

Since Charles was a little Dickens, turkey has been the headliner. Unfortunately, the bird never travels alone. It's always surrounded by sweet and savoury sides that can throw a curve ball at even the most accommodating wine match.

If you're a white wine fan, think sparkling. A fresh bubbly is the great equalizer, pairing with just about everything (even if you decide on red meat or seafood this Xmas).

The classic turkey-meets-stuffing-meets-cranberry scenario that will play out on most tables is a lover of full-bodied chardonnay. Try one with a touch of oaky goodness from Australia, Chile, Canada or California.

Whites with a hint of residual sugar like savoury and sweet. The balanced, juicy fruit of Moselland's 2012 Ars Vitis Riesling ($9.95 - $16.99) is a guaranteed crowd pleaser that looks as good as it tastes.

Next week: My red picks. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fancy doesn't have to mean complicated

Spinach-stuffed Chicken Thighs. This dish makes it possible to dazzle guests without much effort

1. In skillet over medium heat, wilt spinach until reduced. Let cool until easily handled, then squeeze moisture from spinach. Finely chop. You should have about 1/3 cup. Set aside.

2. Using paring knife, remove skin and bone from 2 chicken thighs. Place them in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add ice and process until absorbed. Add sour cream and pulse again until well mixed. Add spinach, 1/2 teaspoon salt, fennel, lemon zest, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Pulse, scraping down sides, until mixed. Set aside.

3. Arrange remaining thighs on cutting board, skin side up. Carefully pull back skin, leaving attached on one end. Divide ground chicken and spinach mixture evenly between 6 thighs, spreading it evenly. Stretch skin back over filling on each thigh. Arrange stuffed thighs on plate, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

4. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. In oven-safe skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Season chicken skin lightly with salt and pepper, then add the chicken to the skillet, skin side down. Cook until skin is golden brown, then use tongs to turn thighs skin side up. Place skillet in the oven and roast for 25 minutes, or until the thighs reach 160 F.

5. Remove skillet from the oven and cover with foil. Let rest 5 minutes before transferring each thigh to serving plate. Spoon any juices from skillet over the thighs before serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 5 oz baby spinach
- 2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (8 thighs)
- 2 tbsp crushed ice
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg
- Ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

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Handmade holiday cheer

Popular daytime TV hosts Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman are getting into the holiday spirit and are ready to help add glitz and glamour to your holidays with these clever tips. For more holiday season DIY decor ideas, watch Steven & Chris weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC.

ALL PHOTOS AND TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS

Holiday party invites

Nothing will set the tone for your holiday bash better than a spectacular and creative party invitation. These fun and interactive ornament invites are a playful way for your guests to get all the details they will need for your next holiday party.

- Card stock paper
- Colourful paper
- A printer/computer
- Clear ornaments (found at local craft store)
- Utility knife, cutting mat
- Pencil
- Ribbon
- Box: card stock, cellophane, glue gun

Method:
1. On your computer, make a document of all of your party information. Make sure each sentence is separated.
2. Cut the sentences with a utility knife to make strips. Curl the pieces with a pencil.
3. Carefully remove the cap from your glass ornament and fill the ornament with the curls.
4. Finish with a ribbon and a gift tag that instructs your party goers to find out the details inside.

DIY deer head

The rustic charm of winter is timeless, yet seemingly effortlessly chic. Here's one rustic holiday look that you can create at home with simple supplies — the kids can help too!

- Deer head template (all the templates are available at cbc.ca/stevenandchris)
- Foam core/cardboard
- Spray glue
- Vintage wrapping paper/ wallpaper
- Utility Knife

Method:
1. Download, print and cut out the template on your home printer.
2. Once you've cut out the template, trace the image onto foam core or cardboard.
3. Carefully cut out each of the pieces using a utility knife.
4. Find some great vintage wallpaper or cool wrapping paper. Spray glue the wallpaper/wrapping paper onto the pieces of foam core/cardboard.
5. Carefully fit all the pieces together, mount on the wall, and you're done.

DIY snow globes

Spread the holiday cheer at your next dinner party with these place card snow globes.

- Silicone glue
- Small holiday decor items
- Small sisal trees
- Small plastic stars
- Mason jars
- Acetate paper
- Oil based marker
- Glycerin
- Foam
- Utility knife
- Cutting mat
- Glue gun

Method:
1. Using the Mason jar, make a template on the foam and cut out small foam pucks.
2. Score the inside of the lid with sandpaper.
3. Glue the Styrofoam pucks to the lid and then glue the small holiday figurines and sisal trees.
4. Cut out a small piece of acetate and write your guests' name on it. Glue the acetate to a plastic star and the star to the tree.
5. Fill the jar with water and a touch of glycerin. Add glitter.
6. Insert the scene into the jar after it has set. We recommend 24 hours. Screw lid on tight, turn upside down and shake.

Golden apple holiday cocktail

Who can resist a splash of bubbly this time of year? Toast to good cheer this season with one of our favourite holiday cocktails.

- Raw sugar
- 1.5 oz brandy
- 0.5oz Goldschlager
- Apple cider
- Ice
- Sparkling wine

Method:
1. Wet the rim of your champagne flute with lemon and dip into a shallow bowl of raw sugar.
2. Fill a shaker with ice. Add 1.5 oz brandy, 0.5 oz Goldschlager and apple cider. Shake well and pour into glass.
3. Top with sparkling wine and enjoy!

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Habs fall in Philly

The Flyers' Michael Raffl scores on Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price on Thursday night in Philadelphia. The Flyers won 2-1. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Could Flames firing improve junior team?

Team Canada. World junior squad will talk to Burke about loaning rookie Monahan

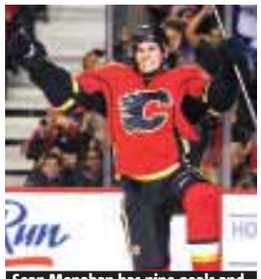
Canada's national junior team has its eyes on Calgary rookie Sean Monahan again after the Flames shook up their front office Thursday.

They had already been told Monahan would not be loaned for the Dec. 26-Jan. 3 world junior championship, but that was before Flames president of hockey operations Brian Burke fired general manager Jay Feaster.

Scott Salmond, the junior squad's director of hockey operations, said it won't hurt to ask again if the gifted forward is available, even if it may be a longshot.

"A no is a no whether it comes from Brian Burke or Jay," said Salmond. "Out of respect for Brian we'll go back and ask again. I'm sure Brian was part of the original decision. Whether things change or not will be up to the Calgary Flames, but it's worth a try."

The junior team is also hoping to bring Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly back for a second world junior tournament, but so far the Leafs have been reluctant to let him go. The NHL club is expected to make a decision by Tuesday.



Sean Monahan has nine goals and six assists with the Flames in his rookie season. GETTY IMAGES

The juniors have already got rearguard Mathew Dumba from the Minnesota Wild.

Another question hanging as players arrived a few at a time for a three-day camp in Toronto was the health of Halifax Mooseheads star forward Jonathan Drouin, who suffered a concussion last week.

Drouin said he is feeling better and hopes to be cleared by team doctors to skate in camp. He was to be examined Thursday night.

"I want to get on the ice with the guys as soon as possible, but it's my health and I'm not going to push it," said Drouin, who is expected to be a key offensive player for Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Lions promote from within for defensive coach

The B.C. Lions have named Mark Washington as their new defensive co-ordinator.

Washington has served as the Lions' secondary coach since 2008 after retiring as a player.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Chamberlain joining Tigers

Joba Chamberlain and the Tigers have agreed to terms on a one-year contract, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Chamberlain will get a fresh start in Detroit in a relatively low-pressure role as a middle reliever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Red Sox open coffer for Napoli

The Boston Red Sox finalized their two-year deal with first baseman Mike Napoli on Thursday, bringing back one of the biggest hitters from the World Series team.

Napoli will earn $32 million through 2015. The terms were agreed to last week, when Napoli tweeted, "The beard is coming back to Boston!!! Couldn't be happier!!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"We're in the same chapter. Not on the same page."

Andre Iguodala, who is expected to sit out his 11th-straight game against the Houston Rockets on Friday night. Iguodala said he has had disagreements with Golden State Warriors trainers on how soon he can return from a hamstring injury.

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CFL

Wave of change hits CFL in 2014

A new team, new stadiums and new rivalries are just some of the things that await football fans, with the 2014 CFL season promising more changes than any in recent years.

The season just finished may have had a storybook ending for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who won their fourth Grey Cup on home turf, but it was a challenge for many other teams in the CFL.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers lived up to their name, bombing big time in their spiffy new stadium as they went 3-15. Even Investors Group Field showed cracks, very literally, and less than a year after it opened, renovations are taking place to the open-air press box so the city can at some point soon host a Grey Cup.

And the Montreal Alouettes got a peek at life without veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo and it wasn't pretty.

But tomorrow is another day and here are a few things expected when the 2014 season gets underway:

Welcome back: The Ottawa RedBlacks will return the CFL to the nation's capital. The CFL has been an eight-team league since the Ottawa Renegades suspended operations before the 2006 season.

Do I hear 10? The CFL is staying Canadian this time, but it doesn't want to stop at nine teams. The league is looking for a 10th host city, perhaps Moncton or Halifax.

New stadiums: Besides the RedBlacks' remodelled stadium at Lansdowne, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats plan to christen Tim Hortons Field in 2014, after spending a vagabond construction season as tenants of the University of Guelph. The Saskatchewan Roughriders are expecting their new $278-million digs to be football-ready by 2017.

New coaches: The league will see some first-time new head coaches in 2014. Edmonton and Winnipeg both have new coaches in 2014 after finishing seventh and eighth in league standings in 2013. Former Argonauts defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones landed his first CFL head coaching job in Edmonton in late November and the Bombers then tabbed Argos special-teams co-ordinator Mike O'Shea for his first top spot. The Ottawa RedBlacks picked Calgary defensive co-ordinator Rick Campbell to lead their debut in the league.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal QB Anthony Calvillo
RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Holden sails to stage win in gruelling endurance race

The crew celebrates after Canadian skipper Eric Holden guided the Henri Lloyd to its first win of the world's longest ocean race on Friday morning in Sydney, Australia. The 33-year-old from Vancouver and his crew won Race 5 of the 16-race Clipper Round the World Yacht Race to maintain their first-place spot overall in what's considered the toughest global endurance challenge. The race visits 12 countries, covering 64,373.8 kilometres over 11 months. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Head coach of women's national team resigns

Dan Church resigned as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Hockey. Dan Church says there wasn't confidence in him leading the squad to another Olympic gold

Dan Church abruptly stepped down as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team saying he felt others lacked confidence in his ability to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.

Church resigned from the job Thursday less than two months before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

"If there isn't confidence in what I'm doing, I need to step aside and let the team move on," Church told The Canadian Press in a phone interview. "I'm heartbroken, to be honest, about the whole situation."

He did not specify whether it was players or Hockey Canada management who questioned his competence.

"Just discussions I'd had over the last few days made that apparent, in some meetings I'd had with leadership," Church said. "I think it was just difference of opinion on the direction we were headed.

"In the end, I just decided if I'm getting in the way of where the team needs to go, I need to step aside and let them continue on in the process."

The move was a bombshell as the 21-player Olympic team was expected to be announced before the end of December. The Canadian women will attempt to win a fourth straight gold medal in Sochi after victories in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Canada is coming off a loss in the final of this year's world championship to the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer. Sinclair boots Canada past Scotland

Christine Sinclair celebrated her 200th appearance with Canada's women's soccer team with a goal in a 2-0 win over Scotland at the Torneio Internacional de Futebol Feminino on Thursday.

The goal was the 147th of Sinclair's career, and she could have had two if her penalty shot in the first half wasn't saved.

"The win felt incredible and that was the most important thing to come out of today," said Sinclair. "Not only the victory but the way our team played, I thought it was the best we've played all year."

Adrianna Leon opened the scoring just eight minutes into the game on a volley off a headed pass from Sophie Schmidt.

Sinclair scored 13 minutes into the second half when she was played in on the left side and had plenty of time to put the ball past Scottish goalkeeper Gemma Fay, who was 1-on-1 against Sinclair.

Canada's next game in the tournament takes place Sunday when they take on Chile. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	32	16	13	3	87	90	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
Philadelphia	31	13	15	3	70	85	29
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

Thursday's results
Montreal at Philadelphia
Columbus at NY Rangers
Buffalo at Ottawa
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Toronto at St. Louis
Dallas at Nashville
Colorado at Winnipeg
Carolina at Calgary
NY Islanders at Phoenix
Boston at Edmonton
Minnesota at San Jose

Wednesday's results
Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	33	18	10	5	78	77	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	34	22	7	5	108	87	49
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games
All Times Eastern
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games
Calgary at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Kane, Chi	17	25	42
Getzlaf, Ana	16	22	38
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Tavares, NYI	12	24	36
Ovechkin, Wash	26	9	35
Steen, StL	21	12	33
Sharp, Chi	15	17	32
Backstrom, Wash	7	25	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Kessel, Tor	16	14	30
Marleau, SJ	14	16	30
St. Louis, TBL	13	17	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Couture, SJ	10	20	30
Toews, Chi	13	16	29

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10 1/2
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12 1/2
New York	6	15	.286	12 1/2
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	1/2
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	1/2
d-L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	3 1/2
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4 1/2
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5 1/2
Golden State	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Dallas	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7 1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7 1/2
Sacramento	6	14	.300	11
Utah	5	19	.208	14

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Thursday's results
L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn
Houston at Portland

Wednesday's results
Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah 122 Sacramento 101
Golden State 95 Dallas 93

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A decision you made a long time ago doesn't seem like a great idea now but you're stuck with it. Make the best of the situation and promise yourself you won't be so hasty in future.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Expect your workload to increase a lot over the next 24 hours. That may not sound like good news but at least it shows that important people trust you to get the job done.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem to others that you never lack confidence but that's not true and as the Sun moves through your opposite sign there will be times of self-doubt. Bite back — hard.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will get what you deserve today: no more and no less. Jupiter in your sign links with Saturn in a way that guarantees you get out of life in direct proportion to what you've put in. And you've put in a lot.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may have to do something that makes you unpopular today but that won't worry you. You know there are times when you have to put duty before pleasure and this is clearly one of them. Do it well.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Saturn may be casting a cloud over money matters but you can still have fun. Besides, if you keep a tight hold of the purse strings now you will have more to spend over the holiday period and party season.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't over-extend yourself at work or your energy may take a nose-dive early next week. Today's Jupiter-Saturn link will help you to persuade others to do things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you will do better, both financially and emotionally, if you open up and let friends and family members know how you feel and what it is you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why is it that people are so demanding? Most likely it's because they know you are too nice to say "no". At some stage today you need to get tough and let certain people know they have to do more.

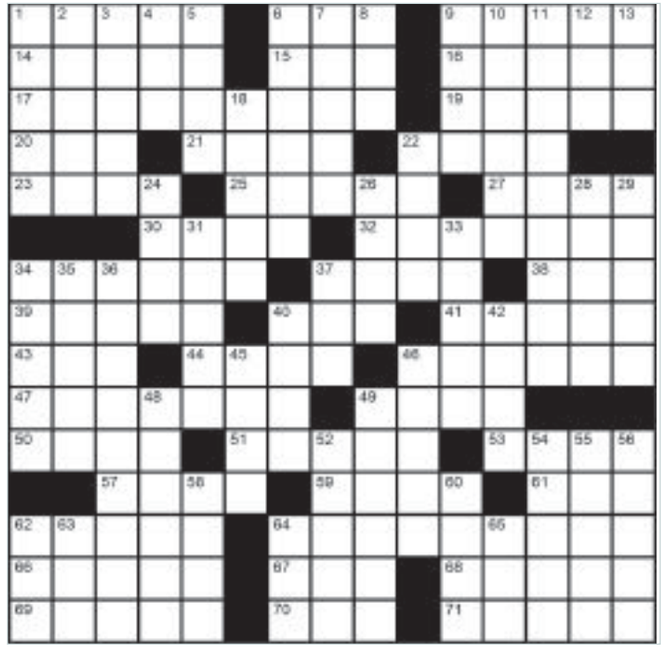
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your frustration may get the better of you and you will say or do something that gets you noticed for the wrong reason. At least others will be aware that you're not afraid to hit back at provocation.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that you won't get things your way all the time, especially at work where some people seem to take a delight in being unreasonable. It's only a passing phase.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Jupiter and Saturn link across the most favourable angles of your chart today and the most likely outcome is that you will be rewarded for services you have done for others in the past. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

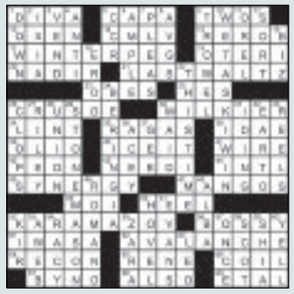
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of __" (2013)
6. Pea's packaging
9. Fearing-one's suffix
14. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
15. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-songwriter Midge
16. Cad
17. Guy __, Cirque du Soleil founder
19. Articulate
20. 'Can' completer
21. Additional
22. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
23. D'Urbervilles heroine
25. Dog collar attachment
27. Man, in Milan
30. Ski lift
32. Hair-off-the-face styles: 2 wds.
34. "Brian's Song" (1971) role, Gale __
37. Insect stage
38. Bronze Roman money
39. Sidekick
40. Paper product
41. "Spider-Man" (2002) director Sam
43. Televise
44. "__ Flux" (2005)
46. President of France's residence, __ Palace
47. Wayne Gretzky team, e.g.: 2 wds.
49. Actress Jessica
50. Stamps spots, shortly
51. "The Sound of Music" (1965) role
53. Rhyming pattern
57. Doctrines
59. Small salmon
61. Kick __ _ fuss
62. Once in _ __ moon
64. BC city
66. "A Madea Christmas" (2013) star Mr. Perry
67. Li'l cartoon 'Devil'
68. Canonical hour
69. Moose, if done how Goose gets pluralized
70. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
71. Japan: Global Warming treaty city

Down
1. Water-balloon-to-ground sound
2. "Morning Express with Robin __" on HLN
3. Rand McNally product
4. William Tell's canton
5. Mr. Kaplan
6. Ship's accountant
7. "Coffee __ __?"
8. Billy __ Williams
9. Not singular [abbr.]
10. "The Bachelor" date site: 2 wds.
11. Region of Quebec near Ottawa
12. Mad Cow Disease letters
13. 'Ballad' suffix
18. Ms. Fitzgerald's
22. Store
24. British WWII submachine gun
26. __ earring
28. Boeotian Muse of memory
29. Actor Mr. Davis
31. Actor Mr. Cranston
33. "I speak French." = "Je __ francais."
34. Weighing need
35. 'Parliament' suffix
36. Stylish area of Toronto
37. Criticize
40. Model
42. The Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
45. Breakfast breakees
46. After __ (Mints)
48. Topics
49. Sculpture material
52. Body of water
54. "Thanks, __ __ thanks!"
55. "You're _ __ and don't even know it!"
56. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
58. Slight
60. Sty cry
62. 24 hr. banker
63. "Farewell."
64. School org.
65. Demure

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

1								9
			9		8			
	7	8	3		6	2	5	
	3			2			4	
6								5
	5			7			1	
	4	7	2		5	6	9	
			1		9			
2								8

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9
2	9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3
7	4	1	9	2	3	6	5	8
1	3	4	5	9	8	2	7	6
8	2	9	7	1	4	3	8	5
5	8	7	2	3	6	9	4	1
9	7	3	8	4	5	1	6	2
4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3	7
6	1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4

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